

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2007

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS ASSOCIATE JUDGE ROBERT C. LORZ TO
FILL CIRCUIT COURT VACANCY IN WILL COUNTY SUBCIRCUIT**

The Illinois Supreme Court has appointed Associate Judge Robert C. Lorz, the most senior associate judge in Will County, to fill the Circuit Court vacancy caused by the retirement of Judge William G. McMenamin.

Judge Lorz, who has received high marks since becoming an associate judge in the 12th Judicial Circuit in March 1987, will take over the Second Subcircuit seat, effective July 5. His appointment will terminate December 1, 2008.

During his 20 years of judicial service, Judge Lorz has presided over every call in the Will County courthouse. He has consistently received ratings in the high 90s in the Judicial Advisory Polls of the Illinois State Bar Association, which are compiled from evaluations by attorneys who have appeared before him or have knowledge of his qualifications.

His rating in the 2007 poll was the 11th highest of the 199 associate judges evaluated by the ISBA statewide.

“Judge Lorz is an able jurist and a well-respected jurist,” said Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, who recommended his appointment to the Court. “He has the second longest tenure of all the judges in the 12th Circuit and is the most senior associate judge in the Circuit. He is a known quantity and has proven his abilities.”

Others also had words of praise for Judge Lorz.

“I am happy for him and his family, and after so many years of service on the bench, it’s a well-deserved promotion,” said Chief Judge Stephen D. White of the 12th Circuit.

“Very well qualified, well respected and long-serving are among the attributes that I would assign to Judge Lorz during his 20-year tenure,” said Judge McMenamin, who officially retires from judicial office on July 4.

“He is a great judge,” said George Mahoney, former president of the Will County Bar Association. “He is very bright, hard-working and highly regarded by lawyers and litigants because he is so fair, diligent and impartial. He is a great selection and a great addition to the Circuit Court.”

Judge Lorz is a summa cum laude graduate of Northern Illinois University and

received his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law in 1975. He worked with a small law firm until joining the Will County State's Attorney's office in August 1977, where he was a criminal prosecutor and an advisor to the Will County Board.

In January 1979, Judge Lorz became an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Joliet. During his six years in that office, his primary duty was to serve as lead trial counsel for the self-insured municipality, and he tried cases in U.S. District Court as well as any tort or contract claim brought against the city.

In 1985, he joined the general litigation firm of Stefanich, McGarry, Wols and O'Krei, where he worked until his appointment as an associate judge in March 1987.

He has served as both a board member and president of the Will County Bar Association, and participated on the Board of Big Brothers and Big Sisters before joining the bench.

"I have been privileged to serve as a judge for over 20 years, hopefully resolving the innumerable and diverse disputes brought before me with a sense of dignity and fairness," said Judge Lorz. "I consider it a true privilege to be appointed as a Circuit judge at this stage of my career, and I am humbled and honored by the confidence that Justice Kilbride and the Illinois Supreme Court have placed in me."

Judge Lorz said he will not be a candidate for election to the seat in 2008, and plans to retire when his appointment runs its course.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, Contact Joseph Tybor 312.793.2323)